United Nations A/61/800

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 March 2007

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda items 53 and 58

Sustainable development

Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Letter dated 14 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the answer by a spokesman for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to questions raised by the Korea Central News Agency on 13 March 2007 with regard to the suspension of operations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex).

The responsibility for the abnormal situation created in the relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and UNDP rest fully with the United States of America and Japan. Some circles inside UNDP, which have taken discriminatory action solely against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, yielding to the pressure of the two above-mentioned countries, cannot avoid accusations for this too.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will not accept any politically motivated assistance seeking a sinister aim.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 53 and 58.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-27253 (E) 190307

Annex to the letter dated 14 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Answer by a spokesman for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to questions raised by the Korea Central News Agency with regard to the suspension of United Nations Development Programme operations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently announced that it had suspended its operations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and would withdraw its international staff from the UNDP office in Pyongyang.

The DPRK and UNDP have maintained good cooperative relations in the last several decades, but all this has come to an abnormal pass. Who is to blame for this? It is none other than the United States and Japan.

The United States has spread from early this year a far-fetched lie by alleging that the DPRK "misused UNDP programme funds", which is aimed at casting a shadow over the external profile of the DPRK. Japan, taking sides with the United States, has put pressure to bear on UNDP to help cut off development assistance to the DPRK and was hell-bent on reopening the discussion on the already-approved country programme for the DPRK by instigating certain member States of the UNDP Executive Board.

Some circles on the part of UNDP also can't feel free from this abnormal situation in the relations between the DPRK and UNDP, because they showed a discriminatory attitude only to the DPRK by giving in to the pressure from the United States and Japan.

UNDP, as it says, is an organization whose mission is to offer development assistance to developing countries. Some officials in the agency, however, contrary to the UNDP mission, have succumbed to outside pressure and tried to revise the country programme for the DPRK from development assistance to assistance of a humanitarian nature, and even went to the length of unilaterally closing or cancelling the ongoing projects.

As regards this discriminatory step taken against the country programme for the DPRK only, it demanded a clarification and an explanation from UNDP, which, however, says nothing, deliberately avoiding the answer.

It clearly shows that UNDP is not in a position to answer, as its behaviour falls short of its mission.

It does not make any difference for the DPRK whether or not it receives assistance from UNDP, which does not hold a great amount. But it will never tolerate any foolish attempt to hurt its dignity.

It is the unshakeable stand of the DPRK not to receive any politically motivated assistance seeking a sinister aim in the future, too.